WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A videophone sign language conversation assistance device used by a deaf-mute person to have a sign language conversation using of a videophone comprising:

hand imaging means including waist fixing means to be fixed at the waist of a deaf-mute person to capture images of the hands of said deaf-mute person to acquire a sign language video;

sight line direction imaging means fixed to the head of said deaf-mute person and arranged to capture images of an area in a direction of the sight line of said deaf-mute person;

video signal synthesis means for synthesizing a video signal captured by said hand imaging means and a video signal captured by said sight line direction imaging means; and

a videophone connection means for transmitting a video signal obtained through synthesis by said video signal synthesis means to a videophone terminal; wherein

the deaf-mute person can include an explanation by sign language while transmitting a video in the sight line direction.

2. The videophone sign language conversation assistance device according to claim 1, wherein said video signal synthesis means includes a function to synthesize a video signal captured by said sight line direction imaging

means as a main window and a video signal captured by said hand imaging means as a sub window in a Picture-in-Picture arrangement and a function to change the setting of the position of said sub window.

3. The videophone sign language conversation assistance device according to claim 1, wherein said videophone sign language conversation assistance device includes display means fixed to the head of said deaf-mute person for displaying a video received by said videophone terminal in front of the eyes of said deaf-mute person and simultaneously enabling the deaf-mute person to view the outer world including a target for sign language conversation; and

said videophone connection means includes a function to receive a video signal from said videophone terminal and supply the video signal to said display means.

4. The videophone sign language conversation assistance device according to claim 3, wherein said sight line direction imaging means and said display means are molded into a frame which can be fixed to the ears and nose of said deaf-mute person.

5. The videophone sign language conversation assistance device according to claim 1, wherein said videophone

connection means includes radio communications means for performing radio communications with said videophone terminal.

6. A videophone sign language interpretation system connecting the videophone sign language conversation assistance device according to claim 1 with the videophone terminal of a deaf-mute person and interconnecting the videophone terminal of said deaf-mute person, the videophone terminal of a non-deaf-mute person and the videophone terminal of a sign language interpreter in order to provide sign language interpretation by a sign language interpreter in a videophone conversation between a deaf-mute person and a non-deaf-mute person, wherein

said videophone sign language interpretation system includes terminal connection means including a sign language interpreter registration table where the terminal number of the videophone terminal of a sign language interpreter is registered;

said terminal connection means including a function to accept a call from said videophone terminal of said deaf-mute person or videophone terminal of said non-deaf-mute person, a function to prompt a calling videophone terminal for which said call is accepted to enter the terminal number of the called terminal, a function to extract the terminal number of the

videophone terminal of a sign language interpreter from said sign language interpreter registration table, a function to call the videophone terminal of a sign language interpreter by using said extracted terminal number, and a function to call the called videophone terminal by using said acquired called terminal number; and

video/audio communications means including a function to synthesize at least a video from the videophone terminal of said non-deaf-mute person and a video from the videophone terminal of said sign language interpreter and transmit the resulting video to the videophone terminal of said deaf-mute person, a function to transmit at least a video from the videophone terminal of said deaf-mute person and an audio from the videophone terminal of said sign language interpreter to the videophone terminal for said non-deaf-mute person and a function to transmit at least a video from the videophone terminal of said deaf-mute person and an audio from the videophone terminal of said non-deaf-mute person to the videophone terminal of said sign language interpreter.

7. The sign language interpretation system according to the claim 6, wherein selection information for selecting a sign language interpreter is registered in said sign language interpreter registration table and said terminal connection means includes a function to acquire the conditions for

selecting a sign language interpreter from said calling videophone terminal and a function to extract the terminal number of a sign language interpreter who satisfies said acquired selection conditions for the sign language interpreter from said sign language interpreter registration table.

8. The sign language interpretation system according to claim 6, wherein said sign language interpretation system includes a term registration table for registering a term used during sign language interpretation, wherein
said terminal connection means includes a function to register a term in said term registration table via an operation from a videophone terminal, a function to select a term to be used from the terms registered in said term registration table via an operation from a videophone terminal, a function to generate a telop of said selected term, and a function to synthesize said generated telop onto a video to be transmitted to a conversation partner.